

January 14, 2016 Interagency Meeting

Meeting Notes

Participants:

J.B. Mack, SWRPC
Julie Chizmas, Jen Czysz, NRPC;
Mary Poesse, NCC
Dave Walker, RPC
Carol Macuch, Glenn Davison, Bill Watson, Fred Butler, William Rose, NHDOT
Leigh Levine, FHWA
Chris Scheiner, Colin Lentz, SRPC
Tim White, Adam Hlasny, SNHPC

January Minor Revisions:

- Carol Macuch went through the projects included in the January Minor Revision report. She noted that some projects decreased in cost slightly due to a recalculation of inflation from the switch to a new fiscal year.
- Some project breakouts are changing due to ROW incidentals being charged under PE. FHWA has changed the rules about when projects can begin charging ROW costs. Tasks like public hearings discussing possible ROW needs and preliminary ROW plans aren't charged to ROW but to PE as part of the preliminary design process. All costs will be charged to PE until the NEPA process is complete at which time ROW related items can begin being charged against the ROW funds for the project.
- Carol Macuch covered the TIFIA Loan Process and current status.
- Julie Chizmas discussed Nashua-1 6080 – Project is being removed from the minor revision and is being included in Amendment #2 instead.
- Bill Watson discussed coordination between transit agencies, MPOs/RPCs, and NHDOT regarding project changes to transit projects. Going forward, transit agencies should notify their respective MPO/RPC of changes to their projects and the MPO/RPC will then notify the Bureau of Rail and Transit as well as Planning and Community Assistance. This will ensure that all parties have the same understanding of project needs.

STIP Revision Procedures

- Dave Walker asked for clarification on the thresholds between the two types of Administrative Modifications
- Chris Scheiner asked for clarification on terminology – Minor Revision vs. Administrative Modification
- Discussion about eliminating “minor” Administrative Adjustments.
- Dave Walker asked for clarification of the items on page 2 of the revised procedures and the difference between “Combining or separating phases” vs “Adding/Removing

phases". It was relayed that the primary difference is that combining or separating phases uses existing funds within a project while adding or removing a phase results in an increase or decrease of project funding.

- Chris Scheiner raised concerns that the new set of revision procedures came out of nowhere for some agencies (in part at least to staffing changes) and that at some point he would like to meet with DOT and go through them point by point just to make sure that there is good understanding of them and any flexibility that they allow as well as where the various cost and comment period thresholds came from.
- NHDOT is willing to start the conversation for a new set of changes to the revision procedures. Other parties are interested in participating in this effort.

Other Business.

- Leigh Levine provided a reminder on TRB webinar on Revised Ozone Standards coming up. Also that the FAST Act signed on 12/4/15. FHWA received an approved presentation for delivery to external partners. Goes over key highway provisions. Leigh is willing to tailor this to fit needs.
- Updated language received from EPA regarding CO conformity and has been distributed.
- Discussion on how to handle comments that come up as part of the public comment period during TIP Amendments. If changes are proposed based on those comments is another comment period required? As long as major players are supportive of changes that come out of comment period, changes can be incorporated into the existing amendment instead of waiting for the next one. Further discussion on this issue is needed.

Next Meeting February 11, 2016